

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN

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ROY. NEW MEXICO

BIRDS AND THEIR ENEMIES.

A recent report of the United States bureau of entomology constitutes one of the strongest arguments imaginable upon the absolute economic folly of exterminating America's bird life. This country, says a bureau expert, suffers each year through insects a loss aggregating \$1,200,000,000; rodents cost us \$200,000,000; weeds more than \$400,000,000. These are staggering figures, indeed. They need not be minutely accurate to point a moral as obvious as it is important. Every thinking person knows they are near enough the truth to make the warning significant. In nature's fine balance of living agencies the birds found their largest utility in keeping the insect pests of mankind in subjection. Not all birds eat insects, but most do. Others destroy rodents, and many eat the seeds of weeds. It was a fine scheme of economy nature had. Man in his cruel blindness has upset the balance. He has made plumage fashionable for hats and glorified bird dinners. Even pot-hunting has been winked at. A policy widely recognized as indefensible has been followed for years. America foots the bill for her own indifference. The first punishment is visited upon the farmers, but its effects are felt by every family in the land.

The rapid transmission of news among Kaffirs and Hottentots is a mystery which even Mr. Rider Haggard is unable to solve. Mr. Haggard was at Pretoria in 1879, at the time of the battle of Isandhlwana. Twelve hours after the disaster an old Hottentot washerwoman told him that Cetawayo had defeated the British troops, and gave details of the fight. So impressed was Mr. Haggard that he reported the information to his official superior. The British official pointed out that it was impossible for the news to be true, as Isandhlwana was 192 miles from Pretoria, and no telegraphic or railway communication existed between the two places. On the following day official confirmation of the disaster was brought by mounted messengers, who were dispatched immediately after the battle and traveled at top speed all the way. Yet the natives won by twenty hours, and the washerwoman's story was true in every detail.

The assertion that cats are necessary in bakeries is supported by wide observation and by the judgment of high practical and scientific authorities in all parts of the world. Rats are pests, and no better antidote for them than cats has ever been found. Poison will not do—especially in a bakery, where the smell of the poisoned rats coming from the holes into which they had retreated to die would corrupt the air and the bread. It is capacious criticism that would object to bakers keeping cats.

Dr. Hastings, the Toronto medical health officer, complains that only about 23 per cent. of the 500 cattle killed for consumption weekly in that city are inspected, and that an average of 55 diseased animals a week are sold for food. A Canadian government analyst asserts that for the last third of a century the pepper used in Canada has been adulterated 40 per cent. We are doing better than Canada in some things.

GENERAL.

It is estimated that 20,000 deer will be killed in Wisconsin during the open season, from November 11th to 30th.

The price of refined sugar was marked down another ten points in the New York market, making the third decline recently reported.

Miss Carrie, acknowledged to be the oldest elephant "actress" on the American stage, died in New York after a week's illness of pneumonia.

Dr. Alfred C. Lambdin, editor of the Philadelphia Public Ledger for the last twelve years and previously managing editor of the Philadelphia Times, is dead.

An event without a parallel in Masonic history was the initiation of seven brothers into the Master Mason degree at Palmyra, Ill. The brothers are John A., Robert T., J. Edward, Charles A., James W., Morrison and C. Albert Ross.

Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., condemned to die November 24th at Richmond, Va., for the murder of his young wife, was removed from the city hall to the penitentiary to await his execution. He was locked in a cell in the condemned ward adjoining the electrocution chamber.

The Rev. Joseph Lambert, pastor of the Elmwood Temple Congregational Church, Providence, R. I., has resigned his pastorate because of protests against his action in performing the Astor-Force marriage ceremony. The protests came largely from the other clergymen of the city.

"Colorado, in my opinion, is one of the most wide-awake states in the West," said James J. Hill, the railroad king, after a visit to the Chamber of Commerce booth at the New York Land Show. "The exhibit for the state here shows remarkable progress," he said, "and what is more, the variety of products displayed is an eye-opener to visitors here."

The litigation which the federal government began four and a half years ago to break up the American Tobacco Company as a monopoly in restraint of trade has approached the stage of completion by judicial acceptance, with a few modifications, of the much-discussed plan, which the tobacco company itself drew up, for dissolution of the combine in accordance with a mandate of the United States Supreme Court.

Mary Whedon Gates, thirty-three, of New York, who was divorced from Chas. G. Gates, son of the late John W. Gates, last August, was granted a licence to marry Romeo Migiletta, thirty-two, of Florence, Italy.

Willis L. Moore, chief of the Weather Bureau at Washington, thinks an aviator might cross the Atlantic ocean if he could take his airship up six miles and remain at that level at least two days. At that height there is said to be a placid ether level free from the conflicting storms and currents which swirl below.

Confirmation of the news of the recapturing of Derna, in Tripoli, by the Turkish troops, was contained in a dispatch received in Washington. The telegram states that the Imperial Ottoman troops were reinforced by the Senussis, killing 500 Italians.

A pension for the 15,000 employees of Armour & Co., based on a gift of \$1,000,000 from J. Ogden J. Armour, president of the packing company, has been announced. The pension system became operative Nov. 1. The employees deposit three per cent of their annual incomes into the fund.

FOREIGN.

An island has suddenly risen from the sea, in the Serpent's Mouth Strait, between Trinidad and the Venezuelan coast. The phenomenon was preceded by an extraordinary commotion in the sea, from which burst huge columns of flames and smoke.



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